

HOW TO

EXTEND

THE LIFE

OF TROPICAL

FLOWERS

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

LEAFLET 51

HOW TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF TROPICAL FLOWERS

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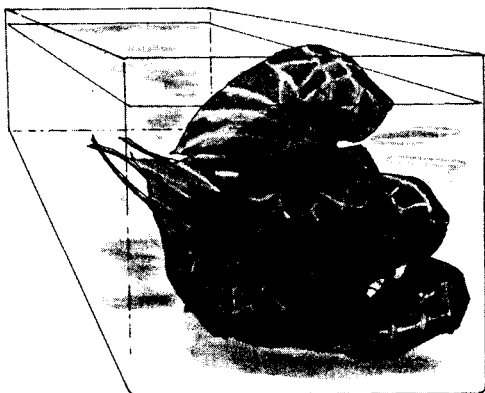
Since these tropical flowers have grown in the mellow climate of Hawaii, have been carefully selected, packed in the most modern manner, and rushed to you by jet airplane, we want you to be able to enjoy their aloha as long as possible.

Tropical flowers often do not respond to the same treatment used for flowers from temperate climates. Consequently, here are some directions to extend their life.

*Retired

ANTHURIUM

Anthuriums die from the stem up, toward the flower heads. They evaporate water from the flower heads.

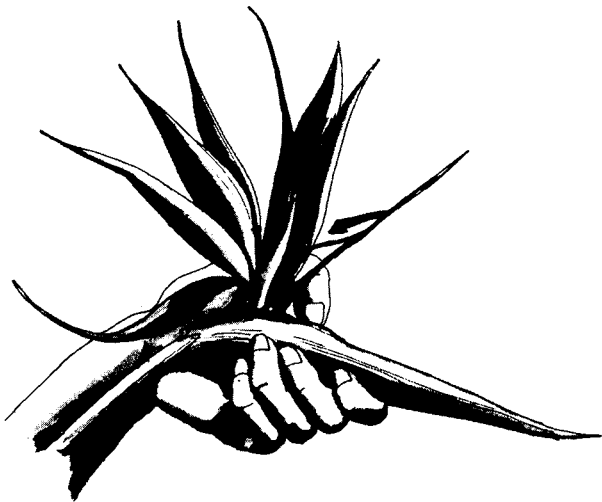


UPON ARRIVAL

- Unpack; unwrap. Using a sharp knife, cut $\frac{1}{2}$ inch off the base of each stem.
- Immerse both the flowers and stems in water (room temperature) for 2 or more hours. Longer soaking (overnight) will not harm the flowers, but it is not necessary.
- Every 5 days, cut another $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the base of the stem and soak the whole flower again for an hour.

Do not refrigerate.

Should keep for from 2 to 4 weeks.



BIRD OF PARADISE

After the stems are cut from the plant, new flowers never automatically emerge from the heavy sheaths of the Bird of Paradise.

TO BRING OUT EXTRA FLOWERS

- Soak the flower head in water (room temperature) for 20 minutes.
- Insert your thumb inside the unopened sheath through the slit on the upper side and gently lift up a new flower.
- Gently remove the thin white membrane that separates each flower and cut it off.

Do not refrigerate.

Should keep for from 1 to 2 weeks.

RED GINGER

The ornamental part of these flowers is the spike of conspicuous red bracts with good keeping quality long after the less conspicuous white flowers have been shed.



UPON ARRIVAL

- Soak the whole stem and the red bracts that enclose the flower in water (room temperature) for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
- Repeat soaking every 3 days. More frequent soaking does not harm red ginger because its best growing conditions are in full sunlight and constant, intermittent, gentle tropical rain.

Do not refrigerate.

Should keep for from 2 to 3 weeks.

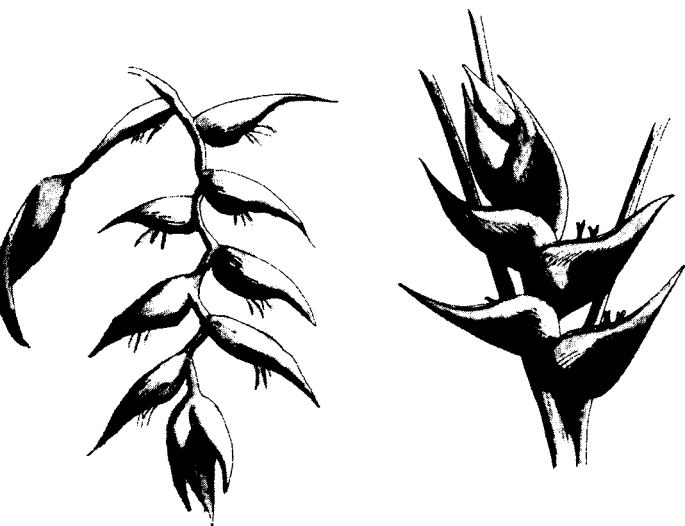
HELICONIA

Lobster Claw and Hanging Heliconia are only two of the several types that grow in Hawaii. They flower for a short season but are long-lasting. Heliconias are heavy for air shipment.

UPON ARRIVAL

- Remove the white powder that covers the flower heads, stems, and leaves by sponging with soap suds (room temperature) into which a few drops of cooking oil has been added. Rinse in fresh water.
- Do not soak in water. Water should not collect on the open sheath because it will damage the enclosed flower parts.

Do not refrigerate.



Should keep for from 1 to 2 weeks.



SHELL GINGER

These bell-shaped waxy white flowers tipped with red, and enclosing a red streaked yellow lip are one of the most unusual gingers.

UPON ARRIVAL

- Soak the flower in water (room temperature) for 10 minutes.
- Remove the natural sheath that surrounds the delicate pink and white flowers. This sheath is not removed before shipment because it protects the flowers from bruising.

Do not refrigerate.

Should keep for from 5 to 7 days.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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